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*** LAST ISSUE -- MARV**

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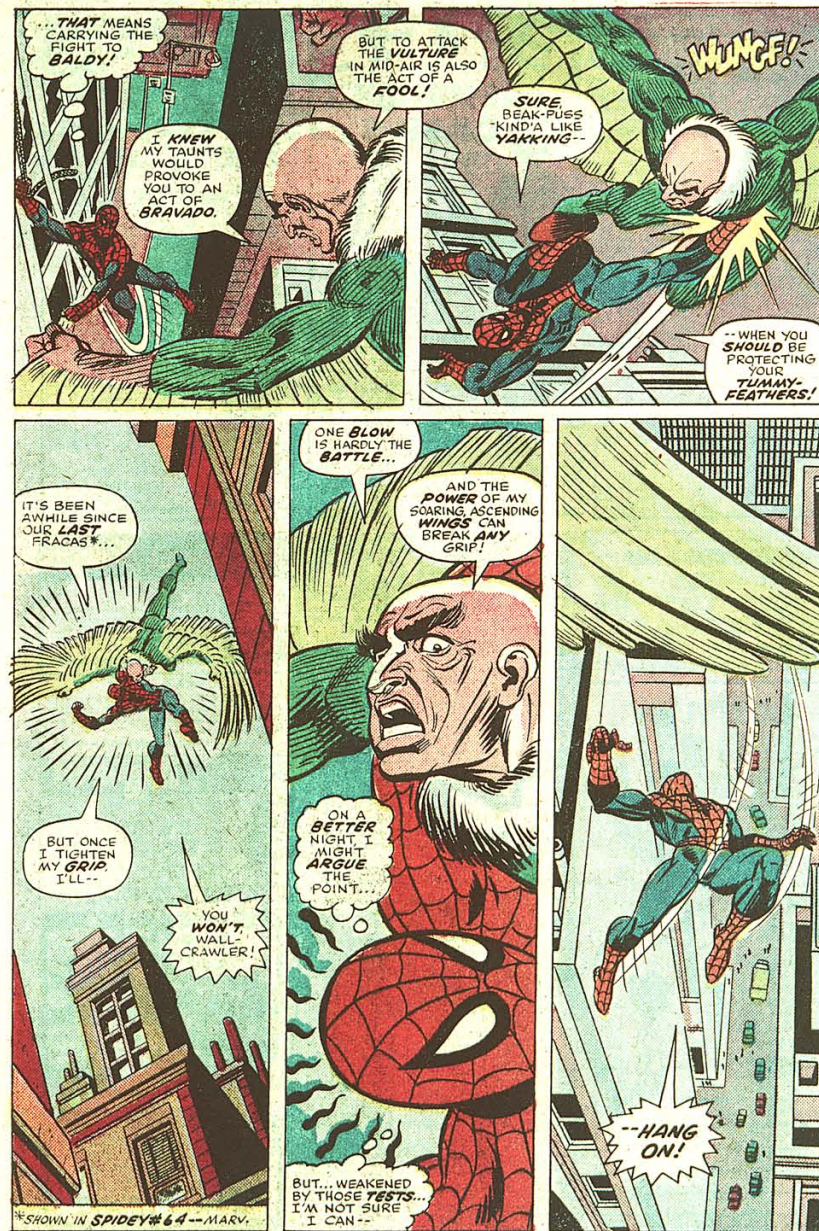
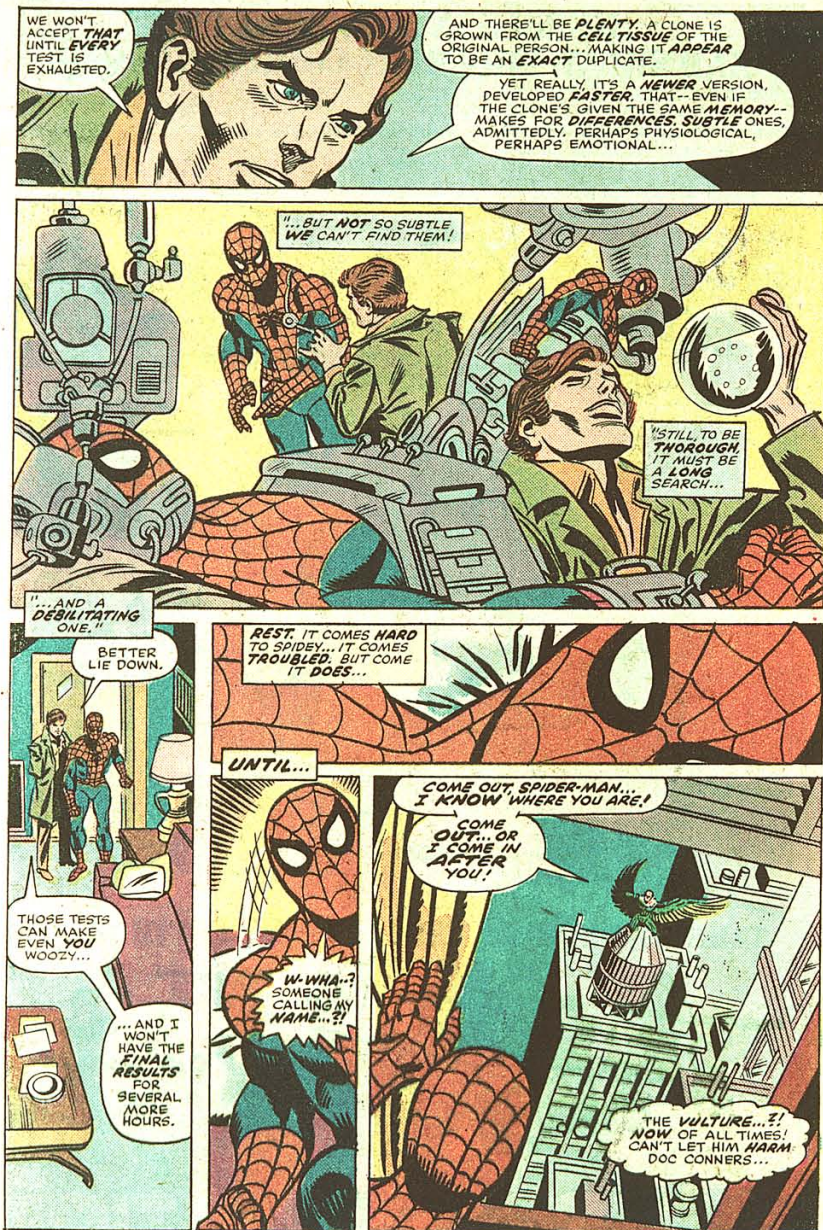
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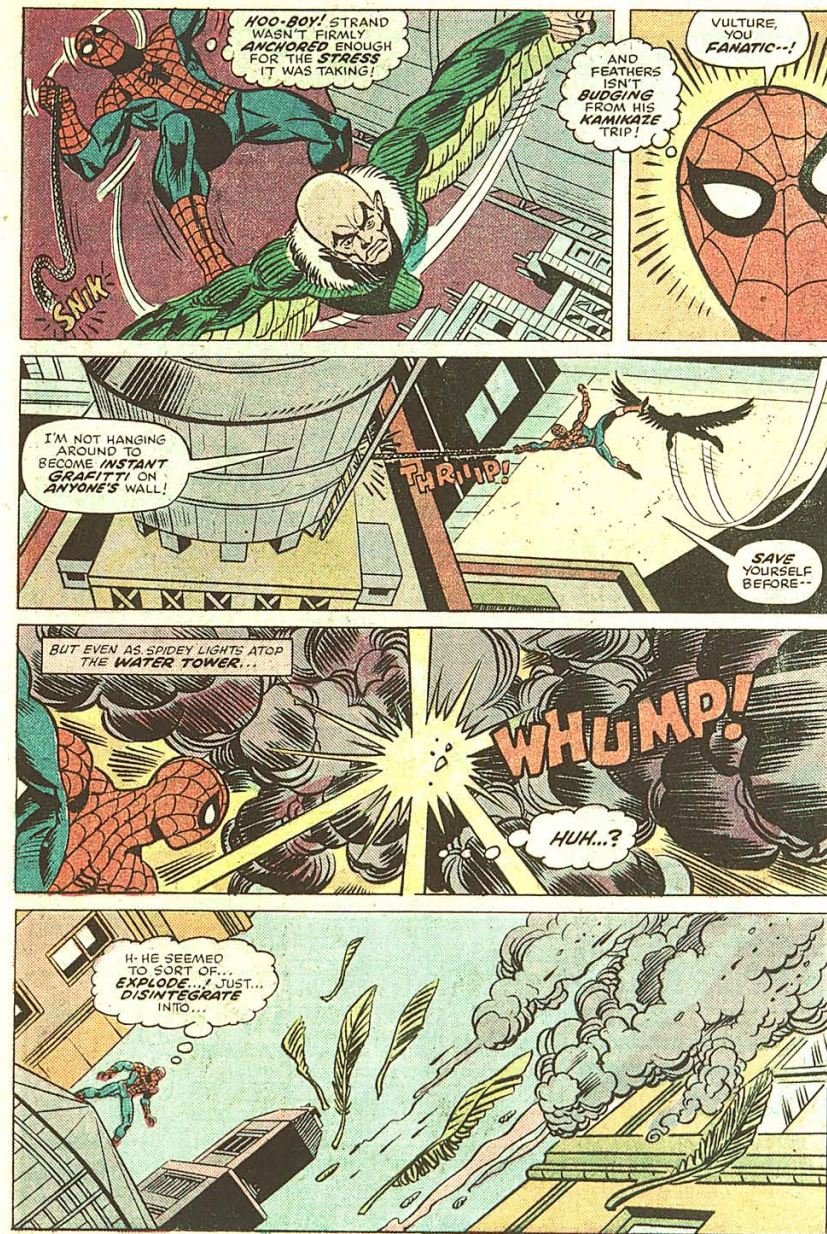
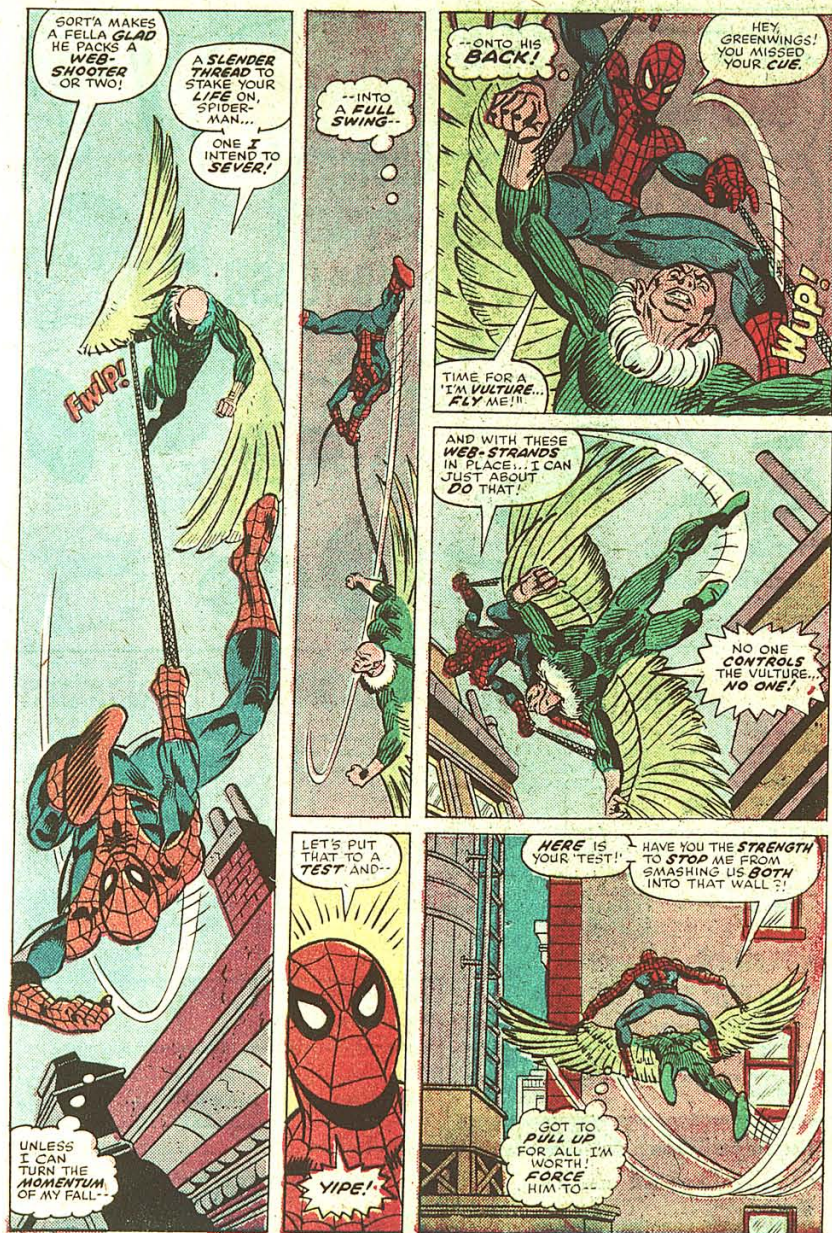
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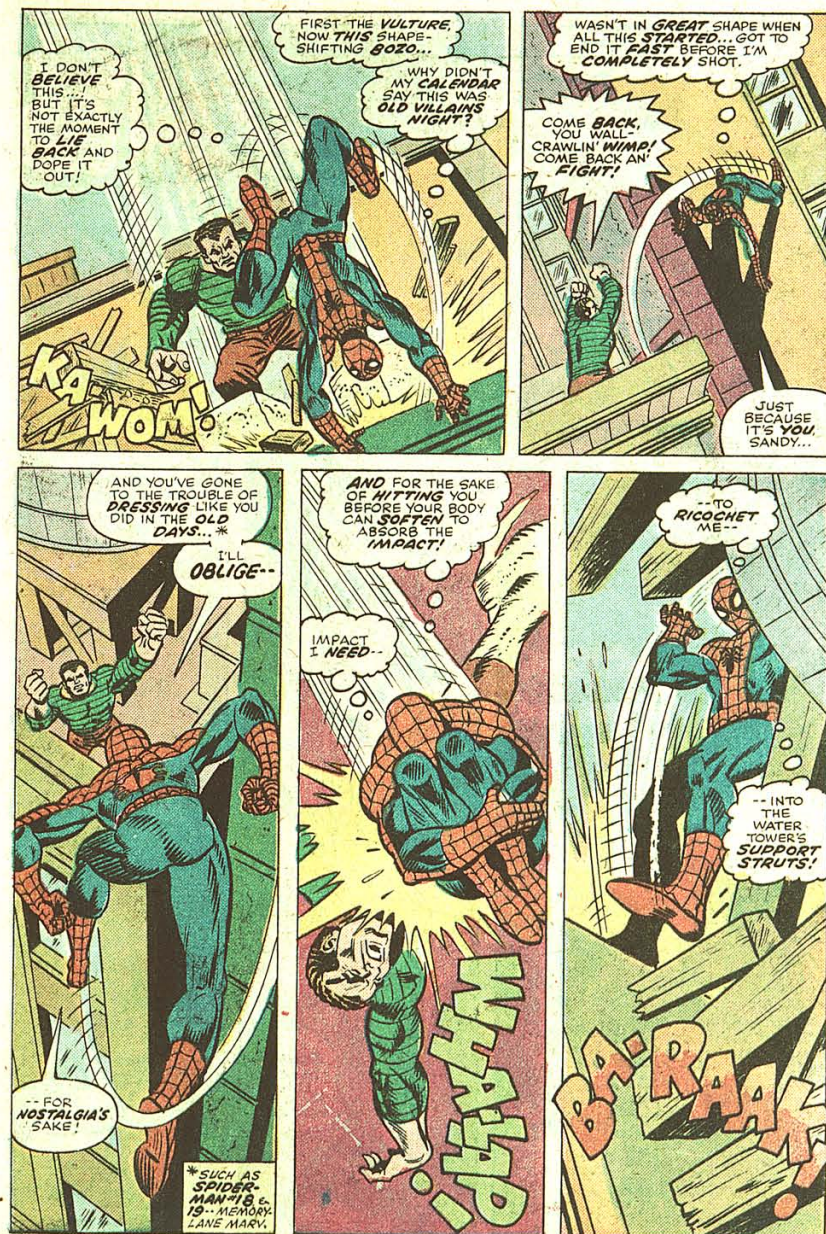
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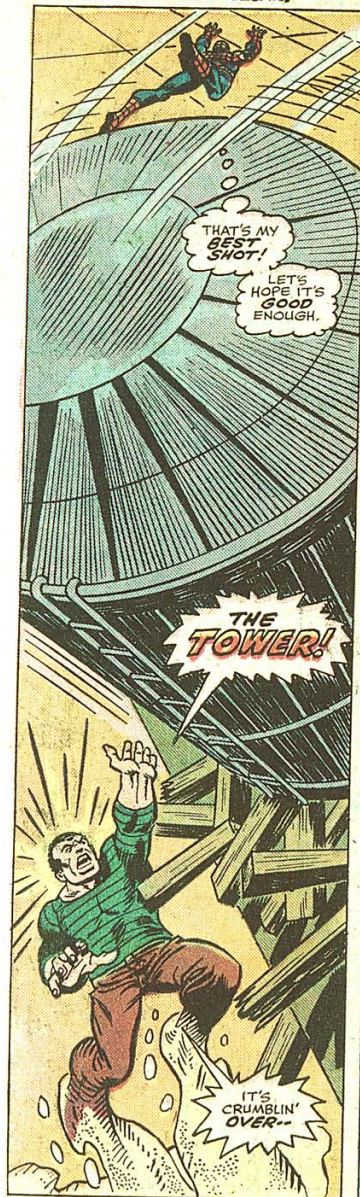
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THEN, BODY-ACHING, MUSCLES-TREMBLING...
SPIDER-MAN LEAPS CLEAR!

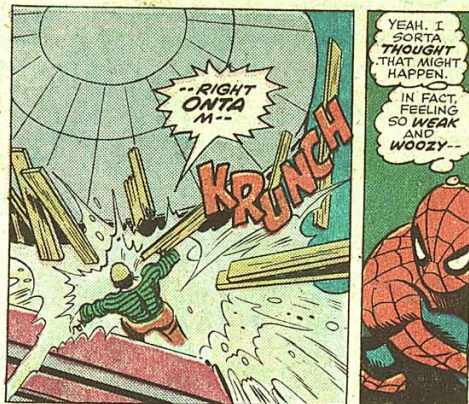


THAT'S MY
BEST
SHOT!

LET'S
HOPE IT'S
GOOD
ENOUGH.

THE
TOWER!

IT'S
CRUMBLIN'
OVER--



--RIGHT
ONTA
M--

KRUNCH

YEAH, I
SORTA
THOUGHT
THAT MIGHT
HAPPEN.

IN FACT,
FEELING
SO WEAK
AND
WOOZY--



WHUMP!

--I WAS
REALLY
PRAYING
FOR IT!

THAT
SOUND--!
ALMOST
LIKE
WHEN THE
VULTURE--



WHAT'S THE
DIFFERENCE?!

LONG AS HE'S
BURIED IN
SEVERAL TONS
OF CASCADING
WATER--

--LEAVING
ME A PILE
OF WET
SAND TO
DEAL WITH
INSTEAD OF
A RAMPAGING
SUPER-
TYPE!

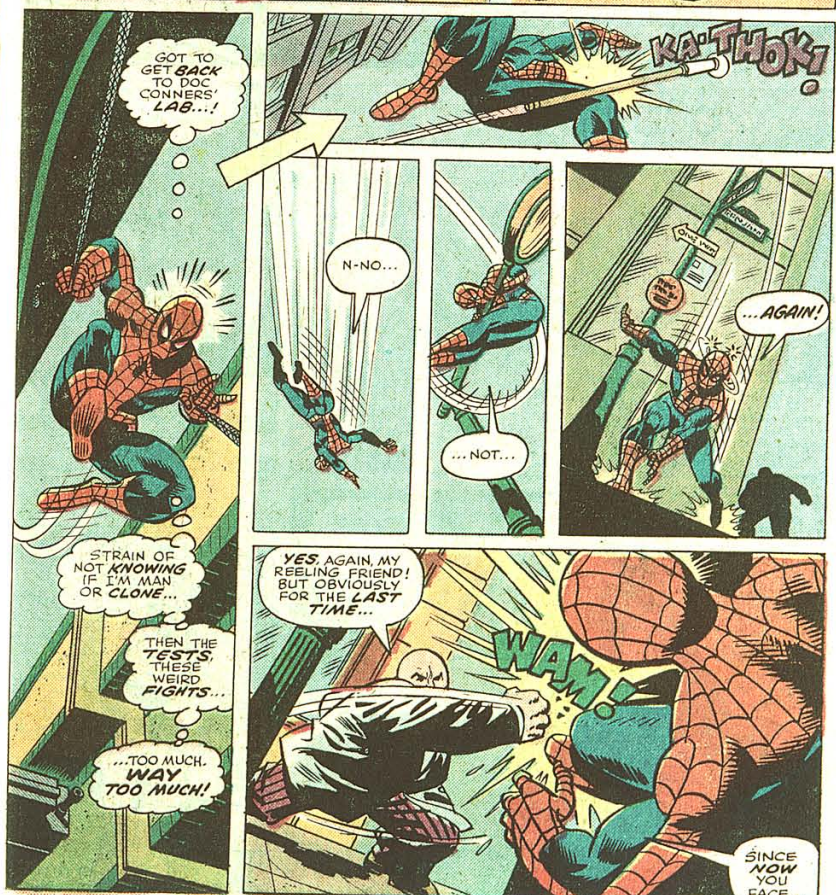


BUT WHAT ACTUALLY REMAINS IS AT ONCE FAR LESS... AND FAR MORE!

N-NOT A
TRACE--!

FEEL LIKE...
I'M FLIPPING
OUT...! CAN'T
THINK STRAIGHT
ANYMORE...

NOT EVEN A
FEW LOOSE
PARTICLES
OF SAND
LIKE I
KNOW THERE
SHOULD BE!



GOT TO
GET BACK
TO DOC
CONNERS'
LAB...!

KA-THOK!

N-NO...

...NOT...

...AGAIN!

STRAIN OF
NOT KNOWING
IF I'M MAN
OR CLONE...

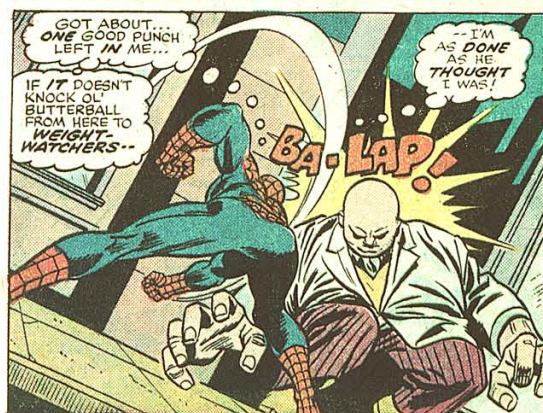
THEN THE
TESTS,
THESE
WEIRD
FIGHTS...

...TOO MUCH.
WAY
TOO MUCH!

YES AGAIN MY
REELING FRIEND!
BUT OBVIOUSLY
FOR THE LAST
TIME...

WAM!

SINCE
NOW
YOU
FACE...



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CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE



THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:

THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SIXTH FLOOR 575 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Marvel,

BRAVO!! SPIDER-MAN #146 was one of the best stories I have ever laid eyes upon. The Jackal series is coming along just fine. After reading the first two pages of the book, clues are given which would lead to the impression that Harry Osborn is the Jackal, but since Harry is supposedly still being taken care of, this cannot be.

Another assumption is that the Jackal is the cause of the Gwen Stacy mystery. But, once again, we are not given enough information to be sure. Just another indication of Gerry Conway's genius.

Don't worry, I'm not forgetting the artwork. As usual, Ross Andru turned out a perfect issue. It was also very nice to see John Romita back on the job (who is/are the gang)?

Until next time.

T.W. Carl
Box 145
Frenchtown, NJ 08825

The "Gang", T.W., at least in this instance, consisted of John Tartaglione, Mike Esposito, Frank Giacoia, and John Romita Jr., stalwarts all, who, because of deadline hassles, pitched in to help Jazzy Johnny on the inking chores. And as long as we're passing around the praise, let's hear a round of applause for Archie Goodwin and Gil Kane who took the time out from their busy schedules to produce this epic 150th anniversary issue of everyone's favorite wall-crawler!

Webmasters:

Next issue: we learn the true identity of the Jackal. Last chance to guess it before we're told.

I've no definite answers, just a guess, and I can't even tell if it's a good one. You tell me. Here's how I reasoned it.

Fact: the Jackal wants Peter Parker/Spider-Man dead.

Fact: he knows Peter Parker is Spider-Man.

Fact: he resembles the Green Goblin, he is green, and his mannerisms are reminiscent of the early Goblin.

Fact: only two villains have learned Spidey's true identity, and both have been the Green Goblin.

Fact: the Jackal created the clone of Gwen now bedeviling Peter.

Sounds like the Jackal is or was the Green Goblin, right?

I don't think so. It strikes me as being a might too obvious for such devious people as Marvel madmen. First of all—Mr. Osborn (the original Goblin) is dead. That, of course, means nothing, in and of itself. Characters in Marvel stay dead only so long as it suits a storyline. However, I'm going to play a hunch: Mr. Osborn is dead. Really dead. Still dead. There's something more than a hunch behind this: the Jackal's build is much too slight for Mr. Osborn. At least, I think so.

Is it Harry? Again, I don't think so, and I may be on better ground here. Harry became the Green Goblin AFTER we met the Jackal. The last we saw of Harry, he was being taken away to the booby hatch. Again, that doesn't totally disqualify him, but it helps. The main objection is: why would he become the Goblin as well as the Jackal? That's a little devious for such obvious people as Marvel madmen.

So, who is it? It's just a hunch, pegged on one fact recently

gathered: the current Gwen is a clone. That leaves the scariest guess of all, and just the sort of touch I think you'd love.

The Jackal is a clone.

Of Peter Parker.

?

John Ostrander
1957 W. Lunt
Chicago, IL 60626

Not bad, John. As you undoubtedly realize after reading SPIDER-MAN #150. Although the Jackal himself wasn't revealed to be a clone, a Spider-Man clone did figure into the final climactic confrontation between Spider-Man and the Jackal.

There were a couple of True Believers who figured out that the Jackal was Professor Warren, but unfortunately, because of a mix-up with our letter files, these missives were lost. We apologize for not being able to recognize these frantic fans in print. It just goes to show: you can't fool all of the Marvelites all of the time, but you can count on your Blushin' Bullpen to bungle every time!

Dear Marvel,

In answer to the flood of letters you are bound to receive, Gerry is right in saying that Gwen Stacy has been dead for two years. Sort of.

She was killed by the Green Goblin sometime during the spring '73 semester (Marvel Time), as is shown in issue #126. (#124 takes place 10 days after Gwen's death; #125 is the next day; #126 takes place only days later because John Jameson is still in the hospital from his stint as Man-Wolf in #125. Also in #126 Prof. Warren chides Peter for blowing off the class that he signed up for in January — hence the Spring semester.)

Things move briskly along through Betty Brant's 1973 Christmas party and Aunt May's Christmas Eve wedding. In issues #130-131, Spring of '74 happens in #134 and summer '74 ends in #139. By #143 Christmas '74 has "come and gone." In #146, about two weeks later, Gwen has indeed been dead two years.

This is not to explain why, in #129 (still the Spring '73 semester) Betty invites Peter to her Christmas party, which he attends a week later; or why in #143 when Christmas '74 has "come and gone" Spidey refers to a September battle with Mysterio (#141-142) as occurring "last week." These are Marvel's problems. Cheers!

Tony Soper
#69 Hover Road
Longmont, CO

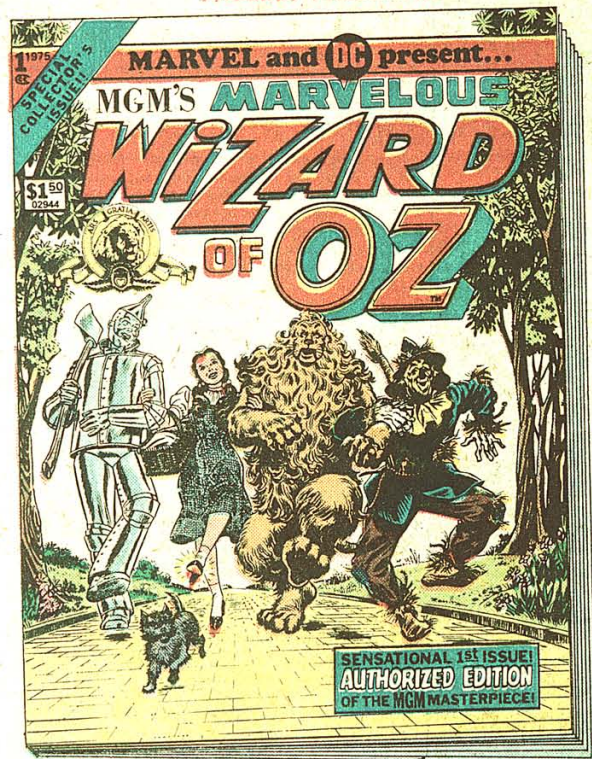
And there you have it, Marvelites, a complete timetable of events from the moment Gorgeous Gwendy fell to her death until "her" return.

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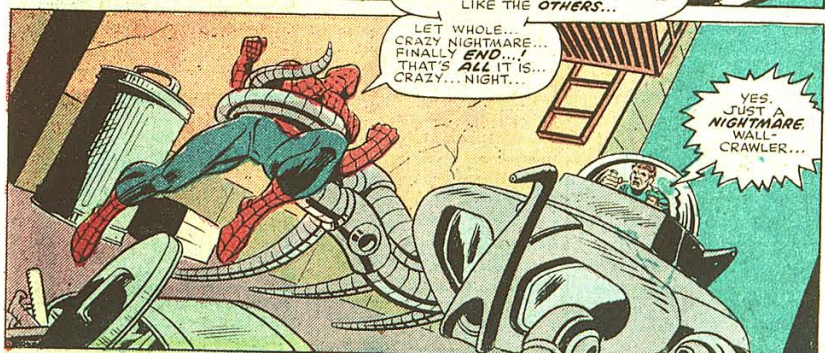
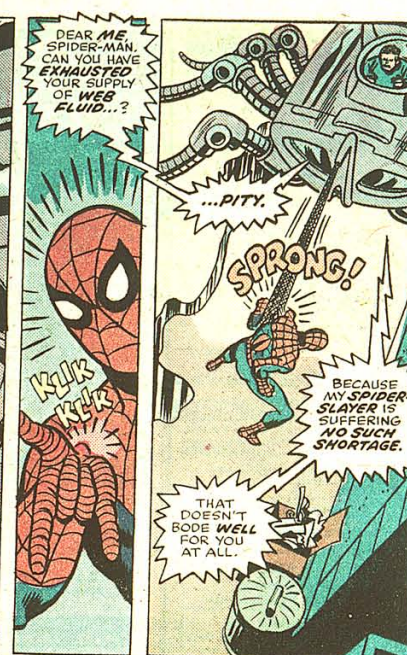
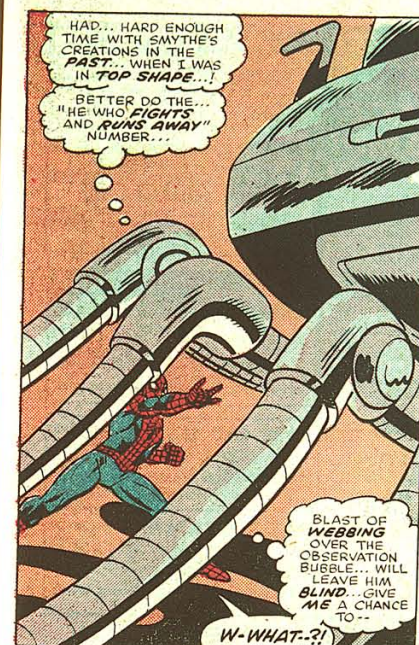
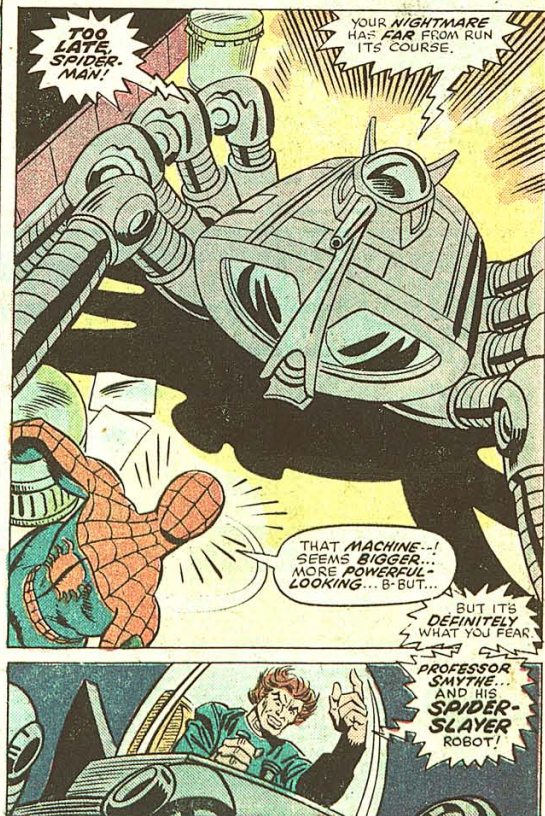
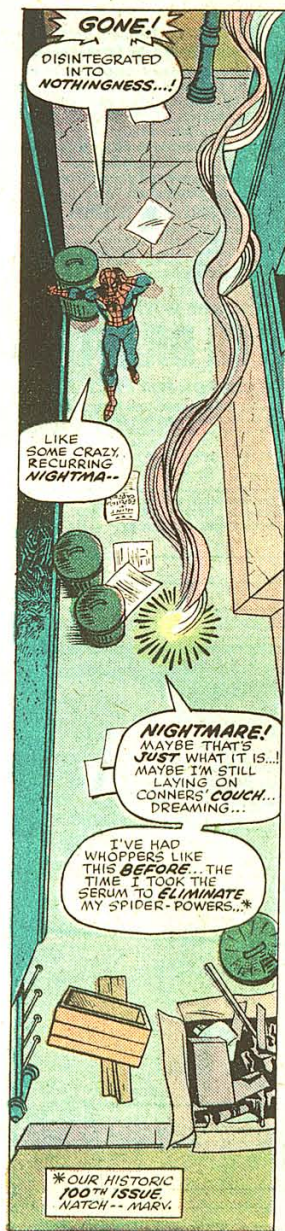
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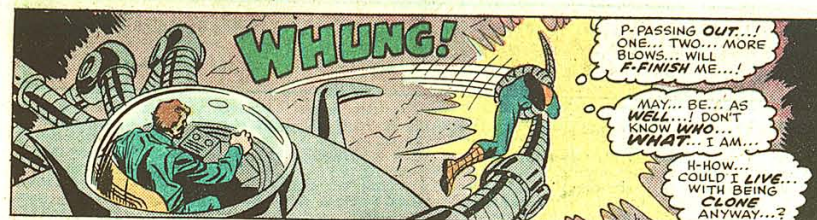
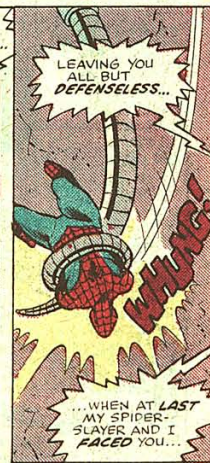
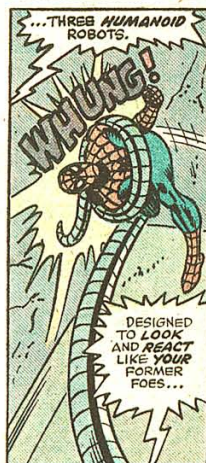
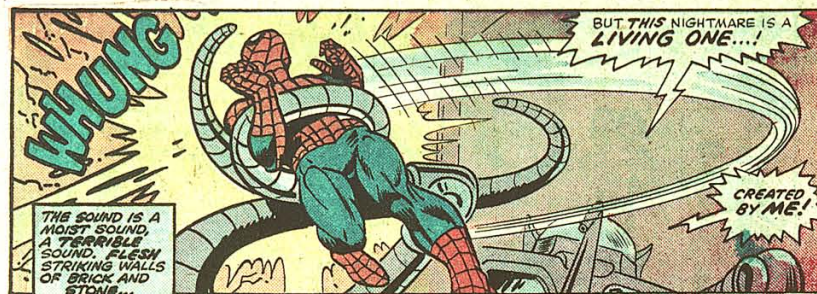
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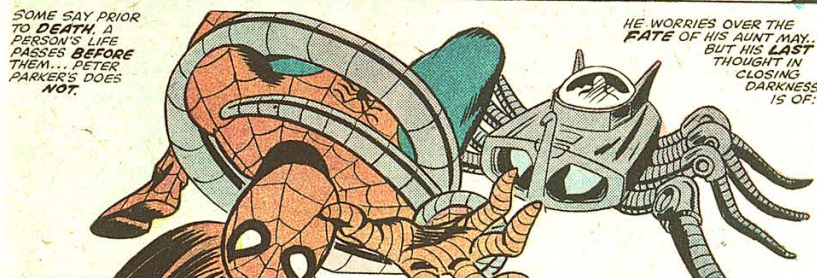
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STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

It's time to wish *Marvelous* Marv Wolfman lotsa luck as he takes over the editorship of our color comics from Len Wein. As for ol' Len, he'll be serving as consulting editor, to give him more time for script-writing, as in the case of Editor Emeritus Roy Thomas about a year ago, remember? And Amiable Archie Goodwin says we shouldn't worry about the black-and-white mags 'cause he'll be handling them in the usual maniacal Marvel manner—whatever that means!

Now, here's some zingy news for all you True Believers who shop 7-ELEVEN. All summer long, more than 5,000 7-ELEVEN neighborhood stores are featuring 60 great Marvel superheroes and villains on their famous Slurpee cups. Yep, you get a new, Marvel-designed, full-color collector's cup every time you buy a Slurpee drink! (And if one of the cups shows a woebegone wretch in a scraggly moustache, it's not a mistake. Some wise guy slipped in a drawing of me—in a superhero suit! But don't worry—they won't charge you extra for it!)

Next, a couple of personal notes. I just wanna say "Hi" to Terrific Terry Gilliam and the other cataclysmic cutups of MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS. (How many of you recognized ol' Terry when we were sitting together swapping ribald ripostes at last Easter's Mighty Marvel Con?) Also, another "Hi" to Angelica Angela Bowie, and her titanically talented hubby, Dashi' David Bowie. The three of us are planning a real far-out surprise for Marveldom Assembled, if we can ever get together long enough to nail it down! In fact, if you latch onto some of the issues of our latest smash publication, CELEBRITY, you'll be seeing Terry, Angela, David, and a whole kaboodle of other headliners who fill our little world with so much fun and excitement.

And now I leave you with the immortal words of Irving Forbus: "It's time to take a troll to tea!" (But only if he's got a credit card!)

Excelsior!

Stan

ITEM! While the rest of you are frolicking in mid-Summer, thanks to the time-war involved in printing these mags, your bold Bullpen Buddies are just getting into the pursuits of Spring, sunshine, and (ta ta!) SOFTBALL! Once again, we've fearlessly challenged a host of the city's major publishing houses to compete on the field of honor in fast and furious softball action. We're not gonna say how we fared

when we waged the good fight against SPORTS ILLUSTRATED or TIME MAGAZINE (you can't win 'em all, Irv), but we did beat JOHN R. WILEY & SONS by a senses-shattering score of 18 to 7. The Marvel madmen were in great form that day. Stay tuned, fans—and we'll keep you posted on our favorite softball team's pulse-pounding progress as the season rolls on!

ITEM! We've been struggling for months to produce the most titanic MARVEL TREASURY EDITIONS a Marvelite could want and guess what? We've found we can't improve on a perfect product—all we can do is give you more! So, from now on, instead of having to wait two months between TREASURY EDITIONS, you can start haunting your newsstand every thirty days—'cause we're introducing a new treasury-sized publication called MARVEL SPECIAL EDITION. The power-packed premiere features Spidey's greatest foes—from the Lizard to the Molten Man to the Sensational Sinister Six! And since these books come out in alternating months, just four weeks after the release of the wall-crawler's SPECIAL EDITION, you'll be able to find the greatest Avengers stories of all time in our seventh terrific MARVEL TREASURY EDITION. (And while you're at it, don't fail to pick up on our baker's dozen of GIANT-SIZE titles this summer, which'll be re-presenting classic adventures of the AVENGERS, CAPT. AMERICA, CAPT. MARVEL, CONAN, DAREDEVIL, DR. STRANGE, FANTASTIC FOUR, the Incredible HULK, IRON MAN, MASTER OF KUNG FU, POWER MAN, THOR, and the X-MEN. Whew! And if you hurry, you may still be able to grab a copy of QUEEN-SIZE MILLIE THE MODEL! Remember: 68 pages for 50¢! More Pages! More Thrills! And much more Magic from the folks who brought you Howard the Duck!

MARVEL MINI-ITEMS! (Or: "Everything You Wanted to Know About Marvel But Were Too Far Away to Ask!") To repeat ourselves from last month—welcome back, JACK KIRBY! We're not saying that the King's artwork and scripting on his triumphant return to CAPTAIN AMERICA were masterpieces, but when they arrived in the morning mail, it took all of Jumbo JOHN VERPOORTEN's vaunted might to pry his production staff away from them. We love ya, Jack—but we'll never get any work done this way! Speaking of welcoming back, say "Hi" to incredible IRV WATANABE, letterer supreme, who's finally getting back into the business after too long an absence. Our humble Hawaiian goes back to some of the earliest FANTASTIC FOUR classics. Like we said, welcome back Irv—it's good to have you here with us again! Hey! Didja catch Dauntless DON MCGREGOR on WHBI-FM's "The Big Sim Power Hour Show"? Don appeared to discuss comics in general and to talk about his upcoming radio series—"Night Figure"—which will be presented each week on that station and is guaranteed to

bring back memories of those halcyon days of radio drama! (And if you think that's all Marvel's doing with the wireless, you just keep an eye on future Bullpen Bulletins!) Congrats to jumping JIM MOONEY and his wife ANNE on the arrival of NOLLE, a bouncing baby girl. Nolle hasn't started pencilling yet, but you can be sure we'll sign her up the moment she does! Has anybody seen STEVE GERBER? Since he finished editing the special "Paranoia" issue of CRAZY MAGAZINE, he's been hiding out from MARV WOLFMAN and the rest of the crew. Talk about getting into one's work! Lively LEN WEIN is getting into the scripting swing of things since descending from his editorial throne. Look for his amazing authorial touch on IRON MAN and THOR in the months to come! (Not to mention a couple of minor titles called SPIDER-MAN and the HULK!) Big news for Golden Avengers fans! After years of drawing the HULK for us, Happy HERB TRIMPE will be switching over to IRON MAN! It seems Herb wanted some relief from all those issues of green, and more green, and even more green. Now if we could only figure out what to do with a certain giant who's been sulking around the office ever since! And how about a quick welcome for the newest editors of our bombastic line of British weeklies: Diabolical DUFFY VOHLAND and Mischievous MICHELE BRAND. (A quick welcome is really all they have time for—what with seven weeklies now in production from their overworked department!) Some True Believers who have been favored with responses to their litin' letters have been wondering exactly who it is that takes time out to write those mighty missives. Well, say "Hello" to Bouncing BONNIE SMITH, whose Olympian task it is to read and sort that ton-of-mail which arrives at 575 Madison Avenue every day. Bonnie is taking over for Meticulous MICHELE WOLFMAN, who is currently pursuing a promising career as Marvel's latest—possibly greatest—colorist! Best wishes to both of these Bullpen beauties! Congrats to TONY (the Tiger) ISABELLA, not only for breaking his leg on Marvel's behalf during the famed softball game against WILEY, but for rejoining our sensational staff and becoming engaged to Beauteous BARB KEPKE all in the same month. We know she's too good for you, but what else is new? Impish IRENE VARTANOFF, Sparklin' SCOTT EDELMAN, and Roguish ROGER SLIFER didn't do anything this go-round, but they threatened to attack us if we didn't mention them!

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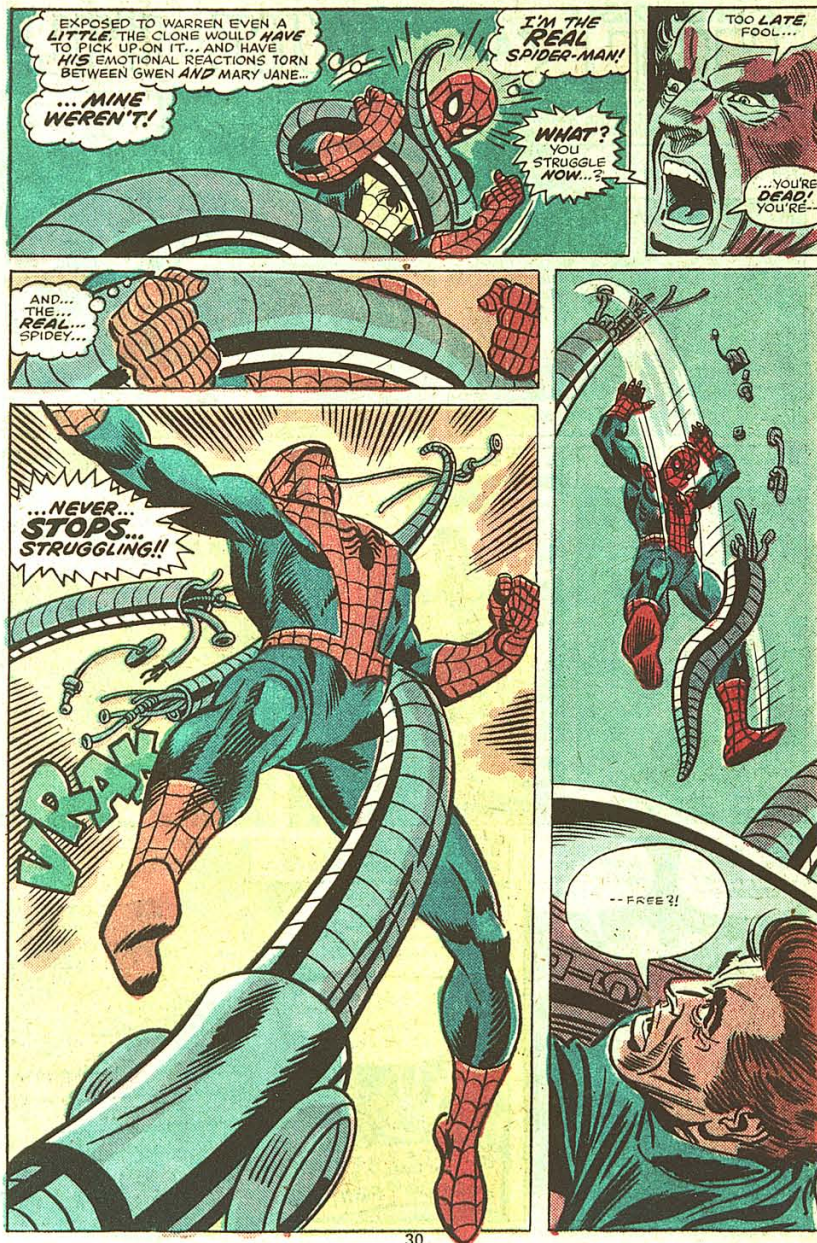
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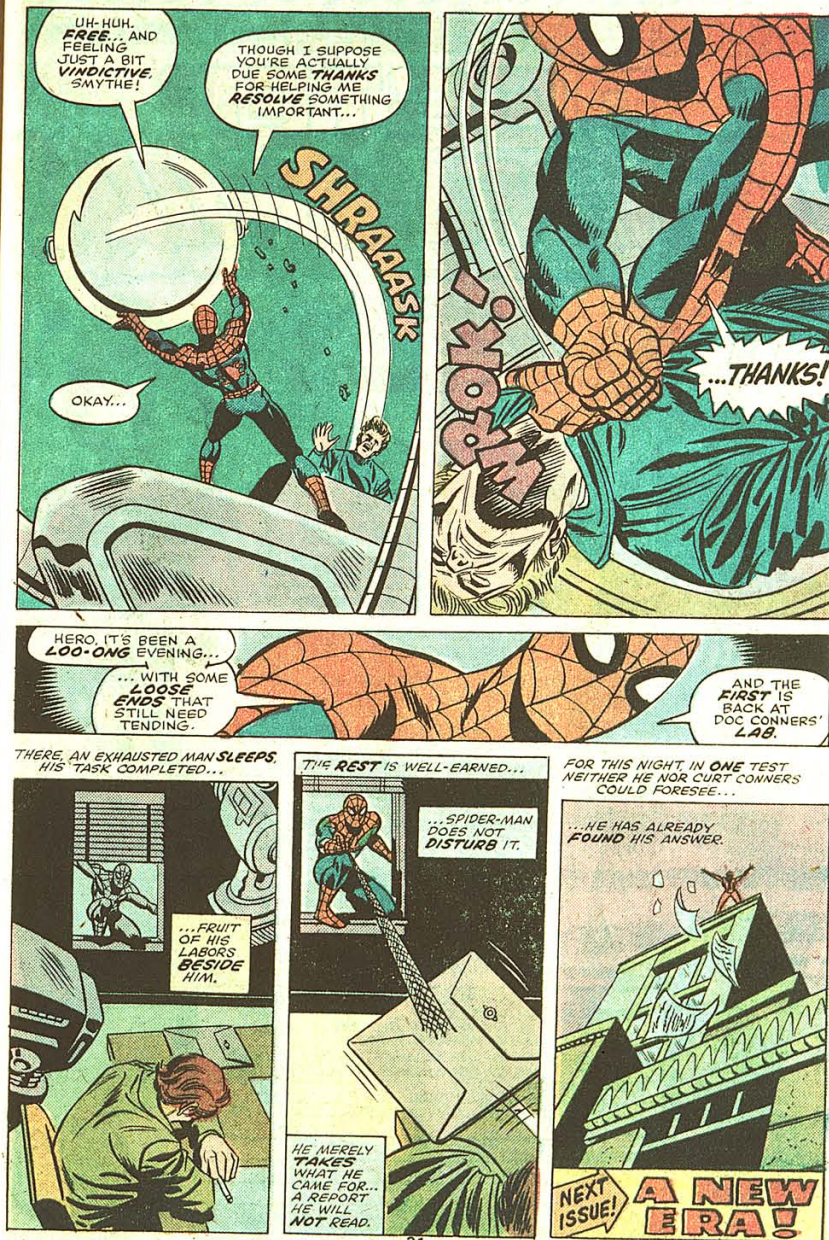
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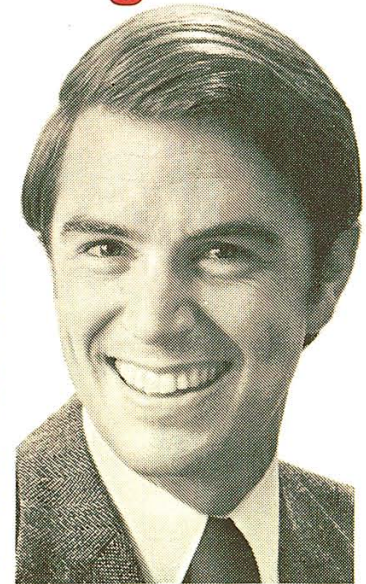
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